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SUPERIOR COURT

SISKIYOU COUNTY JAIL
GRAND JURY RESPONSE

F5. Many Inmates qualify for electronic monitoring for at-home detention. Currently DUI (Driving under the influence of alcohol) prisoners need to make reservations six (6) months in advance to serve their jail sentence.

R5. The Sheriff and Jail Commander should provide budget funding for additional electronic cuffs for prisoners who qualify for home detention.

The jail agrees with the finding.

To clarify finding F5 it is not only DUI prisoners that have to wait six (6) months to serve their jail sentences. All out of custody defendants that are sentenced to jail time must call and schedule their jail time. The waiting list for all commitments is approximately six (6) months.

The recommendation has been implemented.

The jail has contracted with a new electronic monitoring program that will provide as many electronic monitoring systems as the jail needs to meet the demand of the program. The jail is offering the Electronic Monitoring Program to all new and previously scheduled commitments that qualify, to expand the program.

F6. Visitors can communicate with inmates by holding up unauthorized written notes to the glass separating them. These notes cannot be read by the observation cameras.

R6. The Sheriff and Jail Commander should remedy this problem for the protection of inmates and public.

The jail agrees with the finding.

The recommendation has not been implemented due to the jail's layout and the current staffing levels in the jail.

Video visitation systems have been explored. These systems would require a costly remodeling of the jail and would not alleviate the problem of unauthorized communication. With the jail's current floor plan, implementing this system would not decrease the need to move inmates or increase the visiting time for the inmates. This system would definitely be considered during any expansion or new facility projects in the future.

The only way to truly prevent this type of communication is to have an officer present in the visiting area during all visits. The jail does not have sufficient staff to accomplish this goal.

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F7. In the inmate housing area the windows are covered by one-way film. The inmates have access to the film on their side of the window. This film is being destroyed by the inmates and could possibly identify visitors and attempt to intimidate jail personnel.

R7. The Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, and Jail Commander should seek funding to replace the one-way mirror film with a different method to improve the security in the inmate housing area.

The jail agrees with the finding.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented.

The jail intends to replace the safety glass with the film with true one way safety glass but the cost of the glass and current budget constraints are impeding the progress of this project.

With the current budget situation the jail must prioritize staffing requirements before building improvements.

F8. Transporting prisoners to the courthouse often requires them to be mixed together in a manner that could develop into a dangerous situation. This issue has been addressed in three (3) previous grand Jury reports (2000, 2005, and 2006)

R8. The Sheriff and Jail Commander should create a plan to transport prisoners to and from court in a safe manner for all types of prisoners

The jail agrees with the finding

The jail has not yet been fully implemented

The jail is working with the courts to facilitate inmate transportation to court ordered appearances while minimizing the need to transport mixed classifications together.

At this time Jail Transportation Officers do segregate inmates that may pose a safety and/or security risk and transport these inmates separately to court.

The jail's transportation officers are also working with court security personnel to increase security during inmate movements to the courts.

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F9. We were advised of plans to upgrade the computer and DVD recording system in the booking area to replace the outdated VHS system.

R9. The Sheriff and Jail Commander should up-grade the outdated booking area video recording system to a computer and DVD recording system.

The jail agrees with the finding

The jail has implemented the recommendation

The jail's camera recording system has been upgraded to a digital recording system. The new system expands the jail's ability to record incidents within the jail.

The new system also allows monitoring of the jail's cameras from other computers within the facility.